

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
CalFresh Program Guide

Able Bodied Adults without Dependents Work Program (ABAWDs)

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63-904

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Background:

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) limits the receipt of SNAP benefits to 3 months in a 3-year period for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) who are not working, or complying with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more each week, or participating in a workfare program. Individuals are exempt from this provision if they are:

- Under 18 years of age,
- 50 years of age or older,
- Responsible for the care of a child or an incapacitated household member,
- Medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment, pregnant,
- Already exempt from SNAP general work requirements.

Effective October 1, 2008, FNS approved a statewide waiver of the ABAWD work requirement. The waiver usually lasts for a one-year period beginning October 1st and ending September 30th. The waiver has been approved annually and is currently set to expire December 31, 2017.

Policy:

63-904.1 ABAWDs Requirement:

The ABAWDs work requirement is met by one of the following:

- Working 20 hours per week or an average of 80 hours or more per month in suitable employment (hours worked for in-kind income will count toward the 20 hours per week if it is verified by the employer that it was an actual benefit received); or
- Participating in Workfare each month; or
- Participating in an approved work program for 80 hours or more per month. Approved work programs include:
 - A program under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA);
 - A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974;
 - A CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) or comparable program (job search activities do not count).

Although there is currently a statewide waiver, ABAWDs recipients continue to be tracked for statistical purposes.

Procedure:

Worker Responsibility:

Continue to register all non-exempt CalFresh recipients for Employment & Training (E&T).

Social Worker Responsibility:

Social Worker (SW) responsibilities have been suspended as a result of the statewide waiver but will resume when the waiver expires.

Other Program Impacts:

No Impact

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References:

[ACIN I-49-14](#)

[ACIN I-80-08](#)

[ACIN I-11-16](#)

[MPP 63-410](#)

[CFR 273.24\(d\)\(g\)](#)

[PRWORA 1996](#)

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or before 10/31/2018.

Release Date:

10/02/2015